

Alexandria Area Hockey Association Agenda
May 18, 2025
6PM - Runestone Community Center

Monthly Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Josh Hills, Ben Vangsness, Matt VanBruggen, Amber Blakesley, Andrea Nyberg, Cory Oberg, Karla Brutlag, Getty Johnson, Rebekah Summer, Paige Savelkoul, Apryl Putnam, Taylor Hayes, Angie Einerson, Kelli Rheume

Absent: Brittney Thoreson, Josh Hills

- **Call to order:** 6:04pm
- **Approve Agenda:** motion to approve the agenda: Apryl, Taylor, motion carried.
- **Approve Minutes – April 2025** – motion to approve April meeting minutes: Getty, Apryl, motion carried
- **Financial Reports:**
 - **Gambling (Rebekah)**
 - Additional details for Gambling reports are reported to the board members from financials submitted to the Gambling Control Board. These reports are available upon request to the membership.
 - Gambling sites update
 - Budget Request: \$48,250
 - Motion to approve the gambling report & budget request: Amber, Paige, motion carried
 - AAHA Financials (Ben)
 - In the process of setting registration rates for upcoming registration/season.
 - Need to set payment date to July 1 so it goes in the new fiscal year.
 - Number of factors trying to account for- biggest being ice cost
 - Looking like rates will remain the same/similar as last season.
- **Committee Reports:**
 - **Director of Hockey/Hockey Committee (Cory)**
 - HS Updates
 - Boys - 45 players, 4 goalies. Had a mom reach out about junior gold, referred to Cory. Scrimmage jamboree in June in Mpls. Discussion surrounding potential Junior Gold team
 - Girls - Molly not present
 - Goalie Update
 - Days/structure - 10 kids signed up with a capacity of 36 (4-5 Alex kids)
 - Fall Development Structure
 - 9/2-9/18
 - Scheduling with Jason - dates will work according to Jason.
 - Lead for each level, Coordinators??
 - Coordinate coaches and volunteers - need to get more coaches involved - lead will assign coaches (1-2 coaches, 1-2 puck pushers)

- Small Area
 - Landon Power Skating
 - 3v3
- Mites 9/26-10/23 - Work with Andrew
- Tryout Clinic
 - 9/21-9/28 - 3 Sessions to create pools
 - How many sessions can we do for each group - 3 Sessions
 - Lead coaches - Adam will take Bantams, Crouse will do Squirts, Landon will do Peewees, Molly and Denelle will do Girls
 - Do we like the coaches rankings during this to create pools? Think this was very effective and needed again.
- Tryout
 - 10/3-10/12
 - I need a lead assistant at each level that does NOT have a child at that level. Need nominations for Leads to help Cory
 - Close any scrimmages to parents - Find teams to scrimmage us on Sunday 10/12.
 - 4 Sessions with Scrimmage (Peewees/U12 & Bantams/U15)
 - 3 Sessions without Scrimmage (U10s & Squirts)
- Beginners Clinic
 - 9/21-10/5
 - 5-6 sessions
- Mites
 - Season begins 10/25
 - House League
 - Days and times? Sunday afternoon or Evening, 2 sessions back to back with no Zamboni. Little Mites will go on after.
 - Intermediate nets - We will use for Mites
 - Written description of structure to pass on to board for approval.
 - Mite Summit 3 Sessions - 3 hour block of ice 11/1
- Squirts
 - Tournament Updates - Sort through Squirt International
 - Estimated numbers
 - House League - Keep on Tuesday, only do games and cut out practice. Try for at least 6 sessions. Make sure we get teams put together sooner
 - Nets? Try in squirt HL and practice. Hold off for games. (Cory going to get the study for everyone to read)
 - Should we lead the charge at D15?
- Peewee
 - Tournament Updates - Roseau for B1 and A. Trying to get B2 tournament in Maple Grove. Needs to get 2 more tournaments in Duluth and Cloquet.
 - Estimated numbers
- Bantam
 - Tournament Updates -AA Bemidji, B in Roseau, B2 in Hibbing
 - Estimated numbers - 38 Skaters

- Wednesday Night skills - Take Skills away and add 6:00am practices for travels teams (both west and RCC with two teams on each rink)- Stick Puck from 5:15pm-6:15pm and then mites from 6:30pm-7:30pm
 - Hockey Directors Conference takeaways
 - Rethinking how we practice - More station based with more puck touches for each skater. Mix the As with the Bs to develop skills.
 - Formalize Practice Expectations/Plans for all Levels
 - Sub Committee - Landon, JP and Jon will help put this together.
 - Skills
 - Less split up time
 - More small area games
 - 90% of practices should be station based
 - Nets
 - Open Floor
 - Next Meeting - Wednesday 6/18/2025
 - Get Body Contact Dates Scheduled - Each skater gets one session. September 20th potential date
 - Take out Sunday games until January 1st and schedule practices on Sundays instead. Run the season longer into the beginning of March. U10s/Squirts
 - Need to capture all the ice between Northstar and RCC we can.
- **Vice President Report (Getty)**
 - Golf outing event discussions underway
- **Secretary (Brittney)**
 - Discussion surrounding 10,000 Puck start date & incentive
 - Players report when they achieve 10k pucks 10/1/25
 - No website- report signed by player & parent
 - Drawing at end of year banquet for players that shoot 10k or more pucks
 - Confirm Rates - travel and mites – need these ASAP (*Ben working on*)
 - Early Bird Registration – July 13, 2025 [*@ 11:59pm*]
 - Building out registration with June 1 open [*@6am*]
 - Built in communication on confirmation email of registration on how to order jerseys - confirmation email will prompt the process
 - Anybody who doesn't register by July 13th will not be able to pick a number
 - Another round of jersey ordering will open after this date??
- **Communications (Andrea)**
 - Communication sent on registration and jersey selection/tryout
 - 10,000 puck challenge
 - President's message re: going AA

- **Tournament/Team Manager (Amber)**
 - June 1st tournament deadline
- **Volunteers/DIBS Coordinator (Apryl)**
 - Discussion surrounding DIBS
 - up DIBS to 15/player, 35 max/family; \$1000 fee/player penalty for incomplete DIBS (NO max)
- **Concessions (Paige)**
 - Stacy's bonus – discussed financials
 - Working on restructuring DIBS
- **Sponsorship/Fundraising (Josh H)**
 - Waiting on the city to finalize sponsor advertising agreements.
 - Currently have 56 sponsors with few filling multiple spots.
 - 41 sponsorships need to be renewed and get signed agreements
 - 14 renewals in 25-26; 1 in 26-27
 - Currently have 4 new sponsors that we will be meeting with after the city agreement is completed.
 - Alexandria Elks Lodge is interested in becoming a sponsor. They would also like to have discussion about potentially working with us on a gambling profit sharing agreement.
- **Equipment/Rink Rookie (Taylor H)**
 - Discussion surrounding jerseys & 2nd year zero payment
- **Retention/Recruitment (Karla)**
 - Rink Rookie Ad – 5x5
 - Discussions about improved support/communication for new hockey families- dibs, sports engine, etc
 - Discussion surrounding other ideas/events (group bus trip, bean bag tourney)
- **Old Business:**
 - RCC expansion
 - Explore Alex-Submitted 2nd half fund request
 - Charitable Gambling Committee Application
 - Outdoor Rink at RCC or fairgrounds
- **New Business**
 - Confirm new board member roles
 - Approve DIBS amount and fees
 - Establish 2025-26 registration rates

- Player owned jersey process
- AAHA rental agreement with RCC (attachment emailed)
- Summer board meeting dates/times

Meeting Adjourned: 8:05pm Getty, Matt
Next Board Meeting - June 25, 2025 @ 6am
Location – RCC

Board Chair Signature: _____

Secretary Signature: _____